

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 04938 211301Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00  
CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01  
SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 EURE-00  
/060 W

-----211304Z 023346 /53

O P 211239Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6657  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY  
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY  
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN PRIORITY

S E C R E T BONN 04938

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: NATO, OCON, AWACS, MILI, GW  
SUBJECT: NATO AEW

REFS: (A) STATE 061945 DTG 192110Z MAR 77 (NOTAL)  
(B) STATE 060506 DTG 180600Z MAR 77 (NOTAL)

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SECRET

PAGE 02 BONN 04938 211301Z

BEGIN SUMMARY: AFTER BEING INFORMED OF CONTENTS OF REF-  
TEL A, DR. MARTIN BLOCH, MINISTER OF DEFENSE LEBER'S  
PERSONAL ASSISTANT, TOLD EMBOFF THAT A 26 PERCENT FRG  
SHARE OF NATO AEW COSTS WAS TOO HIGH. HOWEVER, REITER-  
ATING LEBER'S BELIEF THAT THE WASHINGTON CONVERSATIONS  
HAD BEEN MOST USEFUL, BLOCH SAID HIS MINISTER WOULD BE  
WILLING TO DISCUSS THE MATTER AT THE MARCH 25 MINIS-

TERIAL MEETING. BLOCH ALSO STATED THAT THERE WAS NO REALISTIC POSSIBILITY THAT FRG CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES FOR AWACS PROCUREMENT COULD BE COMPLETED BY THE MAY 17 DPC MEETING. FINALLY, HE WARNED THAT IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE WITH THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT WERE THE U.S. TO PRESS AWACS TOO HARD OR EMPHASIZE THE BRITISH TIME CONSTRAINTS TOO MUCH. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF MET DR. BLOCH MARCH 21 TO DISCUSS THE GERMAN PERCEPTIONS OF THE RESULTS OF MINISTER LEBER'S MARCH 15/16 VISIT TO WASHINGTON (REPORTED IN GREATER DETAIL BY SEPTEL). HE TOOK THE OCCASION TO HAND BLOCH A NON-PAPER GIVING THE CONTENTS OF REFTEL A. AFTER READING THE NON-PAPER AND AFTER STATING THAT LEBER HAD FOUND THE WASHINGTON CONVERSATIONS WITH SECRETARY BROWN MOST FRUITFUL, BLOCH SAID HE FELT THAT THE FRG POSITION ON TWO ASPECTS OF THE NATO AEW REQUIRED FURTHER CLARIFICATION. FIRST OF ALL, MINISTER LEBER HAD NOT AGREED TO A 26 PERCENT FRG SHARE IN RETURN FOR THE U.S. AGREEING TO INCREASE ITS SHARE TO 33 PERCENT. HOWEVER, WHILE THE FRG FELT A 26 PERCENT SHARE WAS TOO HIGH, THE SUBJECT WAS ONE WHICH THE MINISTERS SHOULD CERTAINLY DISCUSS. (EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS SEEMS TO AGREE WITH REFTEL B WHICH REPORTED THAT LEBER CONTINUES TO RESERVE HIS POSITION ON A 26 PERCENT FRG COST SHARE).

2. THE SECOND MATTER BLOCH FELT WORTH CLARIFYING CONCERNED THE DECISION TO BE TAKEN AT THE MAY 17 DPC MEETING. BLOCH SAID IT WOULD BE MOST UNREALISTIC TO  
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SECRET

PAGE 03 BONN 04938 211301Z

EXPECT FRG PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL BY THAT DATE. IT WAS CLEAR FROM PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS THAT THE FRG PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS INTEND TO GIVE AWACS INTENSIVE SCRUTINY. THE BUDGET COMMITTEE, IN PARTICULAR, INTENDS TO GO INTO THE SUBJECT IN GREAT DETAIL.

3. BLOCH CLOSED BY REPEATING THE FAMILIAR FRG PLEA THAT THE U.S. NOT PUSH AWACS TOO HARD. HE SAID IT WOULD TAKE TIME TO CONVINCE RESPONSIBLE BUNDESTAG MEMBERS THAT THE FRG SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN A NATO AEW PROGRAM. IN HIS OPINION, A CRASH PROGRAM TO TRY TO FORCE AN EARLY DECISION WOULD FAIL. WHEN EMBOFF MENTIONED BRITISH TIME COMSTRAINTS, DR. BLOCH STATED THAT THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG WOULD SIMPLY NOT LISTEN TO ANY ARGUMENT FOR AN EXPEDITIOUS FRG DECISION BASED ON THE ALLEGED NEED TO MEET ANOTHER COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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